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HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Testimony HB 2514 HD1
Relating to Public Safety

Governor Neil Abercrombie

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Rep. Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

February 14, 2012
2:05 pm, Room 325

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and committee members, thank you for hearing HB 2514 HD1 Relating to Public Safety. I respectfully request your support of this important measure.

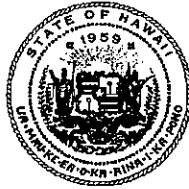
I would also like to thank the Legislature for partnering with the administration and the Judiciary in a historic collaboration called the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. As you know, this is one of the priorities of my administration. We want to stop the practice of sending our prisoners out of state because it sends public dollars out of Hawaii instead of creating jobs and community service opportunities here at home.

In the last 8 months, the Justice Reinvestment Working Group has met with the Council on State Governments Justice Center consultants to analyze our criminal justice system and make policy recommendations to realize cost savings and reinvest those savings back into our system to reduce recidivism, decrease the prison population, and strengthen public safety.

I would like to defer to Robert Coombs, Senior Policy Analyst of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, and Director Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, of the Department of Public Safety, who will provide more details about the proposed legislation.

Thank you again for your consideration of this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA
DIRECTOR

Martha Torney
Deputy Director
Administration

Joe W. Booker, Jr.
Deputy Director
Corrections

Keith Kamita
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

February 14, 2012

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2514, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

By

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 14, 2012; 2:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 3325

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) is in strong support of House Bill 2514, Relating to Public Safety, the result of work by the Justice Reinvestment Working Group. Included in *A New Day in Hawaii* is Governor Neil Abercrombie's initiative to return inmates housed in contracted correctional facilities to Hawaii. The Governor states "The ultimate way to reduce crime is to increase the number of strong, nurturing families and improve economic and social conditions for all." By returning prisoners to Hawaii not only are the opportunities for rehabilitation and family reunification improved, dollars spent out-of-state will be reinvested in creating jobs and community service opportunities here at home.

To this end, the Governor joined with Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald, Senate President Shan Tsutsui, House Speaker Calvin Say and Public Safety Director Jodie Maesaka-Hirata in applying for assistance from the US

Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and the Pew Center on the States to participate in the national Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI).

BJA describes this initiative as follows:

Justice reinvestment is a data-driven approach to reduce corrections and related criminal justice spending and reinvest savings in strategies designed to increase public safety. The purpose of justice reinvestment is to manage and allocate criminal justice populations more cost-effectively, generating savings that can be reinvested in evidence-based strategies that increase public safety while holding offenders accountable.

The application was accepted and the State was afforded the assistance of the Justice Center of the Council of State Governments in developing Hawaii's strategy. The strategic approach is in three phases:

- 1) Analyze data and develop policy options;
- 2) Adopt new policies; and,
- 3) Measure Performance.

The Justice Center analyzed hundreds of thousands of records, from arrest and court conviction data, to probation, jail, prison and parole data; and solicited input from a wide range of stakeholders, from victim advocates, judges, prosecutors, probation, and parole.

Based on the comprehensive data presented, the Working Group considered options to manage the growth of the State jail and prison population, improve the effectiveness of community corrections and law enforcement, and identify community-based strategies to improve public safety. Two measures are introduced as part of the Governor's package to enact the recommendations of the Justice Reinvestment Working Group: House Bill 2514, Relating to Public Safety, addresses the pre-trial process, parole and offender accountability; and, House Bill 2515, Relating to Crime, addresses the sentencing for felony drug offenders, terms of probation, and felony theft.

We concur with the amendments made in House Draft 1, which help better define the goals of this measure and improve conformity with Ramseyer format.

Pre-Trial Process

The pre-trial population nearly doubled over a one year period, from 624 pre-trial detainees incarcerated on June 30, 2010 to 1233 detainees incarcerated on June 30, 2011. These numbers include pre-trial misdemeanants, pre-trial felons, and probation violators awaiting a revocation hearing. The increase in the number of defendants incarcerated pre-trial is attributed to longer lengths of stay in jail rather than an increase in the number of defendants admitted post-initial appearance. Approximately 75% of pre-trial defendants are ultimately released from jail prior to trial.

If a defendant is not released at initial appearance, either because they could not make bail or were not offered release on own recognizance or supervised release, the defendant will be admitted to a Community Correctional Center until they are able to post bail or bail is reconsidered. If a motion is filed for reconsideration, the Intake Service Center will conduct a bail report that provides the judge with options for release. Currently, the time between initial appearance and a reconsideration hearing averages five weeks for pre-trial felons and one week for pre-trial misdemeanants.

Section 3 of this measure seeks to significantly reduce the time between admission to a Community Correctional Center and reconsideration hearings by mandating the completion of an objective assessment of a defendant's risk of flight or risk of committing new crimes while on release status within three working days of admission. The Intake Service Center will conduct the assessment and include the results as part of a bail report. By expediting the assessment and bail report, motions to reconsider may be heard in a timelier manner. The probation violator population is also better served by reducing the time between arrest and a subsequent revocation hearing.

We are very pleased the Intake Services Centers, the county prosecutors, the Office of the Public Defender and the Judiciary have already responded to

the findings of the Working Group and is addressing delays that may contribute to longer lengths of stay. For example, the state-wide probation violator population has been reduced by 117, or 27%, since June 30, 2011.

Parole

Hawaii has an indeterminate sentencing code, whereby maximum terms of imprisonment are set forth in statute and minimum terms are set by the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA). If there is mandatory minimum mandated HPA cannot set its minimum term below the mandatory minimum. Factors considered when determining the HPA minimum include aggravating and mitigating circumstances of the crime, and the criminal history of the defendant. Factors considered when determining release include behavior while incarcerated and progress made in completing programs recommended by correctional case managers.

The number of prisoners denied parole and kept in custody beyond their minimum term has increase 77% since Fiscal Year 2006, based on the end-of-year populations; on June 30, 2006, 493 inmates were incarcerated beyond their minimum expiration date while on June 30, 2011, 872 had expired minimums. In 65% of these cases, the decision to not release is attributed to program delay while incarcerated. Yet, many of those inmates are assessed as low risk for reoffending and could be released without presenting a risk to public safety to receive program services in the community.

Sections 5 and 6 of this measure increase the number of HPA members to ensure hearings can occur in a timely manner and members have adequate time to review cases prior to a hearing. Act 92, Session Laws of Hawaii 1976, reconstituted the former uncompensated Board of Paroles and Pardons as a professional board entitled the Hawaii Paroling Authority with a full-time paid chair and two part-time paid members. Since that time, there has been no increase in the number of members while the work load has increased by eight fold. House Draft 1 adds two part-time members to will allow flexibility in scheduling hearings and reviewing cases. Chapter 23-700, Hawaii

Administrative Rules, would be amended upon passage of this bill to define how to incorporate additional board members.

When determining whether to release an inmate upon expiration of the minimum term, HPA's first consideration is public safety. The best way to measure risk is through the application of an objective risk assessment that predicts the probability of reoffending. Research in the field of substance abuse treatment, the program most commonly recommended for inmates to complete, has shown that prisoners who present a low risk of reoffending are more successful when placed in community-based treatment, freeing up beds and program space for more serious offenders. Through the application of an objective risk assessment, the members of the Hawaii Paroling Authority will be able to determine whether a low-risk inmate is appropriate for release to a community-based treatment program.

Offender Accountability

The Department has a legal and moral responsibility to protect the public now and in the future. Offenders must be held accountable for not only the crimes committed that resulted in conviction and incarceration, but also their future actions.

Under current law, inmates ordered to pay restitution have 10% of their wages earned while incarcerated deducted from their trust accounts, which victims receive annually. This is usually a pittance, as inmates earn just 25¢ an hour. Section 10 increases that share to 25% of all moneys earned plus new deposits and credits to inmate accounts, and by ensuring that victims will receive more restitution on a regular basis, restorative justice for victims will be enhanced.

Section 12 addresses parole practices but from the vantage point of protecting past and future victims. In 2011, 247 inmates were retained in prison until the expiration of their maximum term. As a result, these inmates had **NO** post-incarceration supervision and no community controls exerted on them. Of those who maxed out in 2011, 41% were assessed as high risk of reoffending.

Offenders assessed as high risk have a significantly higher rate of rearrest in the first three years of release than those released to parole supervision. The CSG Justice Center conducted independent analysis of PSD, HPA and Department of the Attorney General data to determine recidivism rates for those released from prison. Sixty-one percent of inmates who maxed out in FY 2008 were rearrested within three years, compared with 35% of those released to parole during the same period.

Mandating that a portion of the sentence must be served in the community with parole supervision increases public safety in a number of ways: 1) offenders are eligible for transitional services to adjust to life beyond the prison walls; 2) offenders can be placed in treatment services to address substance abuse and mental health issues; 3) offenders can be returned to incarceration if they violate the terms of their release; and 4) law enforcement will have a lead on where these offenders live and work.

It is important to note we **discovered a drafting error** in the bill that must be corrected. **Page 12, line 22, should be amended** to read "**706-606.5 (1) (c)**, if the authority..." Section 706-606.5(1)(c), HRS, allows under certain circumstances for the mandatory minimum to equal the maximum sentence which would preclude the proposed supervised release period prior to expiration of the maximum. While we believe this would rarely be the case, it is important that we address the possibility of any inmate being released from prison without supervision.

REINVESTING FUNDS

The Justice Reinvestment Initiative is premised on managing the growth of correctional populations through: 1) valid risk assessments to determine which offenders are better served in community-based programs as opposed to incarceration; evidenced-based approaches, programs and services that do not jeopardize public safety yet reduce admissions to corrections and reduce the length of stay in a correctional facility; 3) expand victim services in all counties;

and, 4) reinvest savings generated from reduced corrections spending into communities.

Should all the recommendations included in this measure and House Bill 2514, HD 1, be enacted, PSD will see an average reduction in bed demand equal to 410 beds/day in the first year, resulting in a savings of up to \$6 Million in Fiscal Year 2013. This savings will be realized by reducing the number of inmates placed in Mainland contracted beds. The savings will be reinvested to support community-based programs and services, increased probation and parole staff, and victim services. Attached is a list of how these funds will be expended.

The Department of Budget and Finance is drafting a Governor's Message to reappropriate the anticipated savings in PSD 808, Non-State Facilities, to the programs identified in the attachment. This includes designating funds for the Hawaii Paroling Authority, Crime Victims Compensation Commission, Judiciary, county prosecutor offices, and other PSD program IDs.

House Draft 1 incorporates a new Part IV of this measure to address funding issues through an appropriation and the authorization to establish new positions. As stated above, a Governor's Message (GM) is being drafted to reappropriate funds rather than request new funds, but until such time as the GM is introduced an appropriations section will further the goals of this measure.

SUMMARY

The Department of Public Safety urges this committee to support the proposals included in this measure as a means to optimize the effectiveness of the Hawaii criminal justice system by realigning our guiding principles and reinvesting in programs and services to promote public safety and reduce recidivism. We owe this to our community. We owe this to victims of crime.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

FY2013-15 Implementation of Justice Reinvestment Initiative

	FY2013		FY2014		FY2015	
	July-Dec	Jan-June	July-Dec	Jan-June	July-Dec	Jan-June
REINVESTMENT*						
Total		\$6,049,036		\$6,402,056		\$6,402,056
Pre-Trial Assessments (PSD 410- ISC)		\$336,560		\$305,000		\$305,000
PSD Risk Assessment (PSD 900)		\$415,080		\$373,000		\$373,000
PSD Reentry Office & Program Training & Oversight (PSD 900)		\$405,820		\$369,000		\$369,000
PSD Community-Based Programs for Pre-Trial & Parolees		\$1,000,000		\$2,000,000		\$2,000,000
HPA Parole Board Members (PSD 611- HPA/D)		\$134,393		\$123,873		\$123,873
HPA Parole Officers (PSD 612- HPA/SC)		\$616,804		\$558,944		\$558,944
PSD Research & Planning (PSD 900)		\$452,080		\$410,000		\$410,000
JUD Probation Drug Treatment/CBT & Staff Training		\$827,060		\$659,980		\$659,980
PSD Victim Notification/Services/Safety Planning (PSD 900)		\$416,540		\$395,500		\$395,500
CVCC Restitution Accountability (PSD 613- CVCC)		\$629,700		\$465,400		\$465,400
Oahu Victim Assistance		\$365,250		\$333,690		\$333,690
Hawaii Victim Assistance		\$316,177		\$284,617		\$284,617
Maui Victim Assistance		\$133,572		\$123,052		\$123,052

BED SAVINGS W/ REINVESTMENT/ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLEMENTATION

SB2776 & 2777 / HB2514 & 2515	299	522	702	885	1013	1089
Projected Maximum Savings From Reduction in AZ Contract	\$9,828,380		\$19,506,848		\$26,490,403	

IMPACT ON PAROLE (Assuming Administrative Implementation Beyond Statute)

Estimated increase in parole population	84	244	404	565	673	727
Estimated additional parole officers required	2	5	8	11	13	15

Breakdown of What Policies Contribute to Additional Parolees (Assumes Impact of Reinvestment)

A. Low-Risk @ Min (1 yr add'l parole LOS)	20	53	87	121	154	188
B. Parole Violator (1 yr add'l parole LOS)	54	162	270	380	435	438
C. High-Risk Mandatory (9 mos avg. parole LOS)	11	29	47	65	83	101

*See attached reinvestment budget detail.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
1177 ALAKEA STREET, GROUND FLOOR
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

BERT Y. MATSUOKA
CHAIR

JOYCE K. MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO
MEMBER

MICHAEL A. TOWN
MEMBER

TOMMY JOHNSON
ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2514, HD1, (HSCR 272-12)
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Bert Y. Matsuoka, Chairman

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 14, 2012; 2:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) supports HB 2514, HD1 and requests the following amendments be made to Section 8 and 12 of this measure:

1. Section 8(e)(4) (Page 12 / Line 21 through Page 13 / Line 7):

"Been previously reimprisoned for violating the conditions of parole on the current offense, the paroled prisoner shall be confined for no more than six months or for that portion of the paroled prisoner's term remaining unserved at time of parole, whichever is shorter [-] unless it is determined by the parole board that the prisoner constitutes a significant risk to the safety of others or himself that can only be mitigated by additional incarceration. "The prisoner shall not be given credit for time served in custody pending a hearing on revocation of parole as it relates to the six month parole revocation, but shall receive credit toward the expiration of the prisoner's maximum sentence(s). No prisoner shall be incarcerated beyond the expiration of the prisoner's maximum term of imprisonment."

2. Section 12 (Page 14 / Line 18 through Page 15 / Line 2):

“Supervised parole release prior to the expiration of the maximum term. Notwithstanding section 706-605 (1) (c), if the authority fixes no earlier release date or has not released a prisoner upon completion of a set minimum term, a prisoner shall be released to parole based on the longest term of imprisonment **unless it is determined by the parole board that the prisoner constitutes a significant risk to the safety of others or himself that can only be mitigated by additional incarceration** as follows:”

The recommended amendments to this measure clarify issues of concern of the HPA and ensure this measure is consistent with current relevant statutes and HPA’s Administrative Rules (Chapter 700 of Title 23, Hawaii Administrative Rules).

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender, State of Hawaii,
to the House Committee on Judiciary**

February 14, 2012

H.B. No. 2514 HD1: RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

We support passage of H.B. No. 2514 HD1 which contains a number of statutory changes based upon the recommendations made by the Governor's Justice Reinvestment initiative. We believe that the proposals contained in this bill can greatly relieve stress upon the criminal justice system while maintaining public safety.

In Section 3 on page 5, the bill would require a pretrial risk assessment for all adult offenders within three working days of admission to a correctional center. This expedited risk assessment would assure that those offenders who can be safely released pending their trial would be released in a prompt manner. Certain high-risk offenders such as those facing probation violations, revocations of bail and revocations of supervised release would be exempt from this provision assuring that high-risk law violators will remain in custody and not jeopardize public safety.

In section 5 on page 8, the number of members of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) would increase from the current three members to five. This would allow the HPA to conduct more hearings thus allowing for more interaction and supervision between the inmate and the parole authorities. It would also allow the HPA to conduct business when more than one HPA member is unavailable.

In section 7 on page 11, the bill would require that an incarcerated offender whose minimum sentence has expired and who is assessed as low risk for re-offending be granted parole with certain exceptions for prison misconducts, pending felony charges and convictions for sexual offenses. This would expedite the parole process by automatically determining that certain offenders be paroled. It should be emphasized that only low risk offenders would be eligible for automatic parole under this amendment and that public safety is preserved by the exclusion of certain higher risk categories of offenders.

In section 8 on page 12, the bill would require that certain non-sex offenders who are reimprisoned for a parole violation but who have not: 1) been charged with a new felony offense; 2) absconded from the state; or 3) committed prior parole violations, be detained for no more than six months. This provision would assure that those who are rearrested for a positive drug test or technical violation of parole and who are low-risk offenders will not suffer from excessive prison terms.

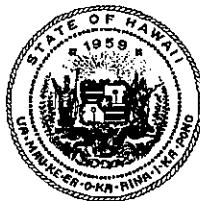
Section 10 on pages 13 and 14 regarding restitution will assure that inmates make progress toward restitution even while incarcerated. In section 12 on pages 14 and 15, supervised release prior to the expiration of an inmate's maximum sentence is established. This procedure is for inmates who are approaching the expiration of their

maximum sentences but who have not yet been paroled. This provision would assure that those offenders receive a period of supervision while they are still under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Safety. Under the current laws, an offender simply walks out of prison unsupervised once he/she “maxes out” (sentences expires). This provision would protect the public against such a situation.

Hawaii is in need of reform to its criminal justice system. The Justice Reinvestment project conducted a data-driven analysis of our current system and formulated a number of suggestions to make the system more efficient while not sacrificing public safety. H.B. No. 2514 HD1 would accomplish some of the reforms suggested by this project. We strongly support these changes and urge the passage of this measure.

Thank for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
**CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION
COMMISSION**

1136 Union Plaza, Suite 600
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Telephone: 808 587-1143
FAX 808 587-1146

MARI McCAIG
Chair

L. DEW KANESHIRO
Commissioner

THOMAS T. WATTS
Commissioner

PAMELA FERGUSON-BREY
Executive Director

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2514, HD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

by

Pamela Ferguson-Brey, Executive Director
Crime Victim Compensation Commission

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Representative Karl Rhodes, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February, 14, 2012; 2:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Good afternoon Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhodes, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary. Thank you for providing the Crime Victim Compensation Commission (the "Commission") with the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2514, HD1. House Bill 2514, HD1 provides that pretrial risk assessments be conducted within three days of an offenders admission to a correctional center; increases the number of parole board members; requires that a validated risk assessment instrument be used by the parole board in determining the offender's risk for reoffense and suitability for community supervision for purposes of making parole decision; provides for the release on parole of certain low risk offenders who have completed their minimum sentence; limits the period of confinement for certain parole violators to six months; provides for a 25% garnishment of all inmate funds to pay restitution; and provides that offenders receive a period of supervision prior to the expiration of their minimum term; and provides for the reinvestment of savings in more effective victim and public safety strategies.

The Commission was established in 1967 to mitigate the suffering and financial impact experienced by victims of violent crime by providing compensation to pay un-reimbursed crime-related expenses. Many victims of violent crime could not afford to pay their medical bills, receive needed mental

health or rehabilitative services, or bury a loved one if compensation were not available from the Commission.

House Bill 2514, HD1 and House Bill 2515, HD1 and a number of reinvestment funding recommendations, including \$2,000,000 for victim services, are a set of policy options developed by the Justice Reinvestment Working Group (JRI) with intensive technical assistance from the Council of State Governments Justice Center, in partnership with the Pew Center on the States. The purpose of the JRI Working Group is to improve and reform criminal justice and corrections practices in Hawai'i through the development of a comprehensive data-driven plan that would allow for the return of mainland prisoners to Hawai'i, and to redirect the cost savings to programs that hold offenders accountable, reduce recidivism, and ensure victim and public safety. JRI policy options and funding recommendations seek to assure that interventions, treatment programs, and intensive supervision are focused on individuals at the greatest risk to commit more crimes after release.

The JRI legislative package includes significant funding for a victim services component. Under this proposal, JRI Hawai'i will make Hawai'i the only state where funds are reinvested in victim services. JRI recommendations include funding for 13 new victim assistance staff in the several county prosecutors' offices, funding to continue the Statewide Automated Victim Notification Program (the "SAVIN Program"), funding to establish a Victim Services Unit in PSD, and funding for a restitution accountability program in the Commission.

The JRI reinvestment in victim services will improve restitution collections and ensure that victims receive advance notification through an automated system informing them of an offender's parole hearing and release dates. This advance notification will enable victims to exercise their right to be heard at the parole hearing. A victim services unit will also be created in PSD to staff the victim notification program, which will assist in addressing restitution shortfalls in PSD, coordinate with community victim service providers and victims to develop safety plans, and protect victims from intimidation by incarcerated offenders. Victim advocates will also be enabled to monitor and collect data on decisions made by the courts, probation, corrections, and parole.

JRI Hawai'i is the only JRI initiative that includes reinvestment funds for victim services. The JRI victim service component will ensure that victim needs, community safety, and offender accountability are in the forefront of JRI implementation, and will work hand-in-hand with other JRI initiatives to increase public safety.

The Commission serves as a member of the JRI Working Group. Part of the Commission's role as a member of the JRI Working Group has been to engage crime victims, survivors, and victim service providers and advocates in identifying key issues and concerns specific to the JRI initiative. A victim/survivor/advocate roundtable briefing and discussion was conducted in September 2011 by Anne Seymour, a consultant with the Pew Center and the Council of State Governments, and Robert Coombs from the Justice Reinvestment Team. A summary of the key priorities identified by the roundtable were presented at the September 2011 JRI Working Group meeting. The established key priorities are: 1) restitution collections shortfalls; 2) the sustainability of the SAVIN Program, which provides victim notification of changes in offender custody status and parole hearing notice; 3) the need to prioritize supervision and treatment based on offender risk and danger level; and 4) the need for information sharing with the victim services community.

Restitution Collection Shortfalls

Restitution collection shortfalls have been a significant issue for crime victims in Hawai'i. Failure of the criminal justice system to collect and pay restitution leaves many crime victims without the ability to recover from the financial impacts they suffered as the result of the crime. All agencies involved in the enforcement of restitution collection must consistently provide the coordinated leadership and uniform commitment necessary to transform the Hawai'i criminal justice system so that the system successfully works for victims.

The Commission has conducted a pilot project to collect restitution from inmates and parolees (the "Restitution Project") since 2003. Since the Restitution Project was initiated, the Commission has opened over 3,200 restitution and compensation fee cases and collected over \$1,500,000. A collateral benefit of the Restitution Project was the identification by the Commission of a number of concerns impacting the procedures for the assessment and collection of restitution. When the Commission first began the Restitution Project, correctional facilities and parole officers were unable to accurately track an inmate's restitution payments making it difficult to enforce restitution orders. The county prosecutors and victim witness advocate programs did not have standardized restitution procedures, restitution was not being requested in all eligible cases and, when restitution was ordered, victim-identifying information was not always preserved, preventing the successful assessment and collection of restitution.

While many of these issues were successfully addressed, through a recent survey of restitution collection from inmates by PSD the Commission has now identified two additional areas of concern:

1. Restitution payments from inmate workline wage deductions are not being forwarded to the Commission by the correctional facilities for payment to victims on a timely basis;
2. Court ordered restitution is not being deducted from inmate wages in all cases, as required by statute, because restitution accounts are not being opened by the correctional facilities for all inmates who have been ordered by the Court to pay restitution.

The Commission surveyed 224 inmate restitution cases to determine whether the correctional facilities were enforcing restitution orders as required by Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS).¹ HRS §353-22.6 provides that the PSD Director enforce restitution orders through a ten percent (10%) deduction from workline wages. Of the 224 restitution cases, 179 inmates with restitution orders worked, but there were no deductions from those inmates' workline wages for restitution and, in 65 of those cases, more than one correctional facility failed to identify that the inmate had been ordered to pay restitution. More than seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) in workline wage deductions were not collected because the correctional facilities failed to identify that the inmate owed restitution.

While there has been progress in addressing some of the issues that obstruct the ability of Hawai'i crime victims to recover their crime-related losses from court-ordered restitution, significant institutional barriers remain. Some of the barriers were highlighted in a recent series of articles published in the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*. These barriers include, for offenders on probation, or otherwise supervised by the Judiciary, an inability to track how many offenders owe restitution, what they owe, and how much they have paid, and the Court's failure to enforce its own restitution orders. In response to these articles the Judiciary formed a Restitution Working Group to address these issues.

In a response to the editor, Rodney A. Maile, Administrative Director of the Courts, wrote, "...offenders' failure to fully pay court-ordered restitution is a difficult, complex and long-standing problem, but one that absolutely has to be addressed because of the hurtful impact it has on victims

¹ The survey was not a random survey. Cases surveyed included, but are not limited to: 1) cases where Commission received a judgment ordering an offender to pay restitution, but no payment was ever received; 2) cases where restitution was previously paid, but there was a lack of payment activity for more than a year; and 3) recently opened cases with payments from the mainland branch or the paroling authority (cases where the paroling authority began collecting restitution, and restitution was not collected by the correctional facilities). Some offenders in the survey were already off status.

and because non-compliance with court orders undermines public trust and confidence in the justice system.”

The JRI initiative addresses some of these longstanding issues by providing funding for a restitution accountability program that tracks and reports restitution payments from PSD, parole, and the Judiciary² (in cases where restitution is ordered to repay the Commission). A second phase of JRI should include an initiative to address the issues identified by this part of the Restitution Project.

In addition, JRI initiative funding for victim advocates in the county prosecutors’ offices ensures that victims are aware of their right to receive restitution and that restitution becomes a top priority. Additionally, increasing the amount of restitution payable by inmates from 10% of inmate wages, to 25% of all funds deposited into an inmate’s account will ensure that offenders make prompt and meaningful restitution payments to crime victims.

Continuing the Statewide Automated Victim Notification System

PSD currently houses the SAVIN Program that provides automated notification to crime victims by phone or victim notification of changes in offender custody status. Federal funding for SAVIN will expire in 2012. The JRI budget proposal increases community and victim safety by providing funding to continue the SAVIN Program’s important function of providing information to crime victims and others about inmate custody status changes, such as the release date of offenders, if the offender has escaped, and the date of upcoming parole hearings. This information gives victims peace of mind and enables them to do safety planning. Advance notification to victims about upcoming parole hearings enables victims to exercise their right, under HRS, Section 801D, to speak at the hearing, and ensures that the paroling authority’s decisions are informed by the concerns of crime victims.

Prioritize supervision and treatment by offender risk and danger level

The JRI funding proposal includes funding for additional county-based victim advocates to ensure that victim and witness safety assessments are integrated into all offender custody decisions by providing timely victim and community safety information to prosecutors, Intake Services, Parole,

² Restitution ordered pursuant to Section 706-646(2), Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, which provides, in part, that “the court shall order restitution to be paid to the crime victim compensation commission in the event that the victim has been given an award for compensation under chapter 351.”

and other related personnel in PSD. These additional staff are essential in order to ensure that the pretrial risk assessments are informed by victim input and community safety concerns.

Concerns surrounding supervision decisions and offender risk are addressed by requiring the parole board to use a validated risk assessment instrument to determine the offender's risk for reoffense and suitability for community supervision when making a parole decisions.

Further, the new PSD Victim Service Unit will coordinate with victim services providers to ensure that victims receive timely notification of offender custody status, educate offenders about the impact of crime on victims, provide safety planning for victims where the offender is going to be released, and ensure that victims are protected from harassment by incarcerated offenders. Hawai'i is currently the only state without a corrections-based victim service program.

Share information with the victim service community

JRI funding for victim services will ensure that information about the implementation of the JRI program is shared with the victim community and, to the extent that there are issues that impact victim and community safety, that these issue are handled as a top priority.

Thank you for providing the Commission with the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2514, HD1 and in support of House Bill 2515, HD1 with the proposed amendment, together with the reinvestment funding recommendations.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
1177 ALAKEA STREET, GROUND FLOOR
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

BERT Y. MATSUOKA
CHAIR

JOYCE K. MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO
MEMBER

MICHAEL A. TOWN
MEMBER

TOMMY JOHNSON
ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2514, HD1, (HSCR 272-12)
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Bert Y. Matsuoka, Chairman

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Aragan, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 14, 2012; 2:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) supports HB 2514, HD1 and requests the following amendments be made to Section 8 and 12 of this measure:

1. Section 8(e)(4) (Page 12 / Line 21 through Page 13 / Line 7):

"Been previously reimprisoned for violating the conditions of parole on the current offense, the paroled prisoner shall be confined for no more than six months or for that portion of the paroled prisoner's term remaining unserved at time of parole, whichever is shorter [-] unless it is determined by the parole board that the prisoner constitutes a significant risk to the safety of others or himself that can only be mitigated by additional incarceration. "The prisoner shall not be given credit for time served in custody pending a hearing on revocation of parole as it relates to the six month parole revocation, but shall receive credit toward the expiration of the prisoner's maximum sentence(s). No prisoner shall be incarcerated beyond the expiration of the prisoner's maximum term of imprisonment."

2. Section 12 (Page 14 / Line 18 through Page 15 / Line 2):

“Supervised parole release prior to the expiration of the maximum term. Notwithstanding section 706-605 (1) (c), if the authority fixes no earlier release date or has not released a prisoner upon completion of a set minimum term, a prisoner shall be released to parole based on the longest term of imprisonment unless it is determined by the parole board that the prisoner constitutes a significant risk to the safety of others or himself that can only be mitigated by additional incarceration as follows:”

The recommended amendments to this measure clarify issues of concern of the HPA and ensure this measure is consistent with current relevant statutes and HPA’s Administrative Rules (Chapter 700 of Title 23, Hawaii Administrative Rules).

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2011 HD 1

Marion Poirier [mpoirier808@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 2:23 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: Marion Poirier [mpoirier808@gmail.com]

TO: Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhodes, and Members of House Committee on Judiciary
February 14, 2012 Hearing
Re: H.B. 2011, H.D. 1

From: Marion Poirier, M.A., R.N.

DEAR CHAIR KEITH-AGARAN, VICE CHAIR RHODES, AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY:

Testimony in Support of H.B. 2011, H.D. 1

My name is Marion Poirier. I am a registered nurse health care consultant with a graduate degree in management and health care administration. I was the executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness from 1997 to 2009, and I currently serve on Senator Chun Oakland's Mental Health Task .

I am not an attorney, and cannot assist with legal specifics. What I can share is that we need to be able to have people treated with an appropriate time frame. We currently have a revolving door. People are in and out of the hospital so rapidly that neither the patient nor treaters and hospital staff can benefit from protocols that could provide a remission or substantial control of psychiatric illness/illnesses. To that end, there would be efficiencies, over-all cost savings, loss of pain and suffering, and effective clinical outcomes.

I urge attention to the legal particulars in order that this measure's passage can accomplish the identified outcomes. Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter.



HB2514 HD1
RELATING TO CRIME
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

February 14, 2012

2:05 p.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB2514 HD1. The bill would implement the changes suggested by the Justice Reinvestment Initiative.

OHA's 2010 report, "The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System," and the recently completed study by the Justice Reinvestment Initiative indicates that there is a clear need for smart justice solutions, such as those that are part of this bill. These changes bring the criminal justice system in line with the need for faster pre-trial assessments and increased capacity for the paroling authority.

OHA urges the committee to PASS HB2514 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

ELENA CABATU
ADRIENNE KING
CARMILLE LIM
AMY MONK
LISA ELLEN SMITH
CAROL ANNE PHILIPS

Executive Director
Catherine Betts, Esq.

Email:
DHS.HSCSW@hawaii.gov
Web:
www.hawaii.gov/dhs/women/HSCSW

235 S. Beretania #407
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-5758
FAX: 808-586-5756

February 13, 2012

Testimony in Support, HB 2514, HD 1

To: Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Catherine Betts, Esq., Executive Director, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2514, HD1, Relating to Public Safety

On behalf of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to thank the committee for this opportunity to provide testimony on this issue. I would like to express my support for HB 2514, HD 1.

The Justice Reinvestment Initiative has provided an independent inquiry into the flaws of our criminal justice system. This bill is based on the sound data culled by the Justice Reinvestment Initiative and would amend statutes to require a quickly conducted pre trial risk assessment, an expansion of the parole board to increase frequency and efficiency of parole board hearings, an increase in restitution to victims of crime and a required period of parole supervision prior to the maximum sentence date. By focusing on how to best reintegrate the incarcerated and support their rehabilitation, this legislation would allow for safer communities, less recidivism by offenders and less waste of state funds. Further, this bill provides for victim services, including continued funding for the Automated Victim Notification System, which the Commission wholeheartedly supports. The Commission respectfully urges this Committee to pass HB 2514 HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Catherine Betts, Esq.
Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

KEITH M. KANESHIRO
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

ARMINA A. CHING
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



THE HONORABLE GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2012
State of Hawai'i

February 14, 2012

RE: H.B. 2514, H.D. 1; RELATING TO CRIME.

Chair Keith-Agaran and Vice-Chair Rhoads, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony expressing concerns regarding--and suggesting amendments to--H.B. 2514, H.D. 1.

While the Department understands the State's desire "to bring out-of-state prisoners back to Hawaii, reduce spending on corrections, and reinvest savings generated in strategies that would reduce recidivism and crime and increase public safety," multiple sections of this bill seem to strive for saving money or decreasing the prison populations, without retaining or including sufficient measures to uphold public safety.

First, we note that none of the proposed measures specifies a timeline for transition to 3-day pretrial assessments (Section 3), or for developing parole officers and support programs to serve the anticipated influx of "low-risk" (Section 7) and "nearly-maximum term" (Section 12) parolees. These things must be in place before any of the proposed measures could be reasonably implemented.

Regarding pretrial assessments, it is unclear what the repercussions would be if the 3-day mandate is not met, or how the proposed actuarial/assessment tool differs from the Hawaii Paroling Authority's ("HPA") current standards. If HPA standards are adequate, there is no need for this provision, and if they are insufficient, then there should be an initiative to change them.

Section 7 reserves some discretion for HPA, regarding those persons assessed by the tool as "low-risk for re-offending," and we will defer to HPA and its counsel as to the sufficiency of this language. However, we note that Section 12 should include similar discretion for the HPA to assess the safety of releasing inmates who are nearing-maximum term. If HPA has previously found an

inmate not suitable for parole, it seems unwise to release that person into the public any earlier than necessary, particularly if an inmate does not want to be released on parole, or is likely to re-offend as soon as they are released. In addition, we suggest that an exception be added to both Section 7 and Section 12, to deny early release if the person "has local, state or federal detainers or holds."

Collection of restitution for crime victims is another important area for consideration, but Section 9 of H.B. 2514, H.D. 1 addresses only a small portion of offenders who owe restitution--which will get smaller if many inmates are released due to other measures proposed in this bill. As a more meaningful way to facilitate payment of restitution to crime victims, the Department suggests that language from H.B. 2349 be incorporated into H.B. 2514, H.D. 1, to:

- include unpaid restitution as valid "debt," for purposes of withholding State income tax refunds (similar to outstanding child support or judgments owed to State agencies);
- remove a court's ability to revoke restitution once ordered as part of a defendant's sentencing (which would not affect their abilities to appeal a conviction);
- create standards and procedures for income-withholding, fashioned after similar statutes used to enforce outstanding child support payments; and
- extend victims' access to adult probation records, to include access to payment compliance records, for purposes of enforcing restitution orders civilly.

In addition, the Committee should consider an amendment to HRS §706-746, to apply bail monies toward any restitution owed, once a defendant is sentenced. Restitution payment is not only integral to the rehabilitation of defendants, but also to the recovery and well-being of crime victims, and victims should not have to resort to civil litigation to enforce this part of a defendant's sentence.

Although the Department supports the goals of increasing public safety and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of our criminal justice system, proposals raised in H.B. 2514, H.D. 1 require further revisions before they can purport to achieve those goals. For these reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney continues to have concerns about--and suggests amendments to--H.B. 2514, H.D. 1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.



**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2514
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Robert Coombs, Senior Policy Analyst
Council of State Governments Justice Center**

Tuesday, February 14, 2012; 2:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and committee members, thank you for hearing HB 2514 Relating to Public Safety and for the opportunity to discuss the research we at the Council of State Governments Justice Center have conducted over the last year.

In June, Governor Abercrombie, Chief Justice Recktenwald, Senate President Tsutsui, House Speaker Say and Department of Public Safety Director Maesaka-Hirata joined to launch a Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI). JRI is a data-driven approach to identify inefficiencies, develop cost-effective policy options, and plan for a reinvestment of savings that reduces recidivism and increases public safety.

To assist them in this inter-branch, research-based effort, they requested assistance from the Pew Center on the States and the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance. The CSG Justice Center was selected to provide intensive technical assistance to Hawaii to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the state's criminal justice system and to help state leaders develop policy options that could increase public safety while saving taxpayer dollars. All of this was done using federal and private funds, meaning this cost the state nothing except the time of staff to participate.

Over the past seven months, an inter-branch JRI working group chaired by the Director of Public Safety, Judge Alm, and the Senate President has guided and informed this effort. Throughout the process, we collected and analyzed data from arrests to court dispositions to probation, prison, and parole. We would like to recognize officials and staff at the Attorney General's office, the Judiciary and probation, Hawaii Paroling Authority, and of course the Department of Public Safety for their efforts to make data available and assist in the analysis throughout this process. The Department of Public Safety (PSD) deserves particular recognition for the data collection and access that Director Maesaka-Hirata and her staff provided to this process. Along with these quantitative analyses, we convened focus groups and interviews with numerous practitioners and stakeholders from around the state, including prosecutors, victim advocates, judges, parole board members, probation officers, law enforcement officials, and others.

Overview

Overall, we found that despite a decline in crime over the past five years, the overall jail and prison population has not significantly changed. The analysis found that key areas of the criminal justice system are not operating as cost-effectively as they could to reduce crime and increase public safety.

1. Analyses found that Hawaii's pre-trial process is one of the longest in the nation. The pre-trial assessment process takes much longer in Hawaii (several months on average, whereas it takes just days or a few weeks in other jurisdictions) and budget cuts have caused these already long processes to be delayed even further. The result has been millions of dollars spent needlessly on a growing pre-trial population.
2. Prisoners are required to complete programs that don't benefit public safety. Assessments are not currently being used appropriately to put the right people in the right programs, based on the research. As a result, offenders who are most likely to be successful upon release have been spending longer behind bars and those offenders most likely to benefit from programs have been unable to get the programs they need to make the public safe.
3. Hawaii often releases those people most likely to reoffend back to communities without any supervision or monitoring. Prisoners likely to commit more crime are exploiting loopholes in the system that allows them to return to the community with nobody holding them accountable.
4. Restitution for victims is not being adequately collected. Current statutes only require people to pay ten cents to victims for every dollar they earn behind bars, even if they have hundreds and thousands of dollars deposited into their individual account.

Justice Reinvestment Policy Framework

In consultation with the inter-branch working group, the CSG Justice Center developed a package of policy options to address these inefficiencies, hold offenders more accountable, and reinvest savings in more effective public safety strategies.

The policy options from the framework included in House Bill 2514 would do the following:

- Increase efficiency in the pre-trial process. The bill requires PSD to conduct a pre-trial assessment within three working days. This will require resources to conduct these assessments proactively and quickly, but is much cheaper than the current process which the data suggests is longer than 39 of the largest counties in the nation.
- Increase efficiency in the parole decision-making process. The parole board in Hawaii has more responsibility and power over the length of time sentenced felony offenders serve than any other board in the country. Yet, they have fewer board members than most other states. With only three parole board members and two required at each hearing, there is little flexibility to ensure timely and complete hearings are held. This bill adds a fourth part-time member to the board to reduce the likelihood of unnecessary delays or incomplete hearings.
- Reduce reoffending by focusing prison-based programs on those who will benefit the most from treatment. This bill requires that a validated risk assessment be conducted on every sentenced offender to determine who is most likely to succeed and not reoffend after release and who is most likely to commit another crime. This bill requires that offenders most likely to be successful should be paroled after serving the sentence set by

the parole board. Additional incapacitation beyond the minimum sentence date should be reserved for keeping those offenders more likely to reoffend behind bars until they complete treatment and have a suitable parole plan.

- Increase accountability and reduce recidivism by using swift, certain, and graduated sanctions for parolees. This bill calls for differentiating the severity of the response to violations. By limiting reincarceration for the first condition violation at six months, resources can be reinvested in additional parole officers and community-based programs to strengthen supervision while still imposing stiff sanctions on those that violate repeatedly, abscond, or are charged with a new felony.
- Ensure accountability by requiring a minimum period of supervision after prison for those offenders who have not been previously parole and would otherwise be released without any transition. This bill requires that a small percentage of an offender's maximum sentence be served on parole supervision to monitor their behavior, create a safety plan for victims, and alert law enforcement. Such an approach is commonplace in most states that adopted truth in sentencing during the last two decades. In those states, most require an even greater percentage of each offender's sentence to be served under supervision at the end.
- Improve and increase victim restitution collected from offenders while they are incarcerated. This bill would increase the percentage collected from 10 percent to 25 percent, and would collect from not just wages (which typically amount to \$20 per month) but any deposits made to the individual offender's account. This will increase restitution collected for victims dramatically. In addition, the bill allows for reinvestment in a stronger system of accountability within the Crime Victim Compensation Commission to document restitution collection rates and progress.

Impact

Based on the analysis we conducted, we anticipate that this bill would contribute to increasing public safety in three ways. First, by addressing the inefficiencies that tie up resources in ways that do not reduce crime and reinvesting in ways that do. Second, by focusing resources spent on supervision, incarceration, and treatment on those individuals who are most likely to benefit from those investments in terms of reducing their likelihood of committing another crime. Third, by increasing accountability in Hawaii's criminal justice system by mandating a period of supervision and increasing the amount of victim restitution collected.

Unless policymakers take action, the inefficiencies identified will cost Hawaii \$150 million over the next six years alone. Adopting the policies would avert all of those costs by gradually reducing the pre-trial jail population and the sentenced population as fewer people are delayed for release due to lack of information, first time parole violators come back to prison for shorter, swifter sanctions, and people are released in ways that most likely benefit public safety. Nearly all offenders who come into PSD's jail and prison facilities each and every year will be released at some point. This bill aims to improve how they are released, to require supervision, to avoid delaying someone's release simply because of inefficient processes and a lack of timely assessment or decision-making.

At the same time, the bill requires an estimated \$7 million to be spent annually on investments in each of the following critical areas of the criminal justice system:

- Victim Services, Notification & Restitution Collection
- Prison, Reentry and Community Based Treatment Programs
- Probation and Parole Supervision
- Research and Planning

There are a number of amendments that have been brought forth to address concerns raised or to better clarify the legislation proposed.

In Section 3, Subsection (3) the deletion of "...or federal detainees or holds..." allows for exemption from immediate pretrial risk assessment those individuals who have additional cases prohibiting release from custody.

In Sections 5 & 6 the addition of two part time board members has been proposed instead of just one in the current language.

Finally, Section 7 has three changes: as follows:

- First, the addition in subsection (b) of "in the State of Hawaii" after the word "charges" clarifies that individuals with pending felony charges in Hawaii will be ineligible for presumptive release.
- Second, the deletion of subsection (d), which states "Has local state or federal detainees or holds" serves to ensure that the state can pass individuals onto federal custody without delay.
- Third, the addition of a new subsection to read "(d) Is determined by the parole board to currently constitute a significant risk to the safety or property of other persons that can only be mitigated by additional incapacitation" allows for the parole board to use discretion in blocking the release of an individual who they believe to be acutely dangerous.

Thank you, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the committee, for the opportunity to share our research and findings with you as you work to find ways of increasing public safety while containing costs.



Committee: Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 2:05 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 325
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of and with Comments to H.B. 2514, HD1, Relating to Public Safety

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The ACLU of Hawaii generally supports H.B. 2514, HD1 and the other proposals submitted as part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI). However, we respectfully suggest the following improvement to the bill:

Section 8: Reduce maximum prison time for parole violations to 90 days

Currently, H.B. 2514, HD1 reduces the maximum prison/jail time for a technical parole violation to six months, which is a step in the right direction. However, other states that have gone through the JRI process have settled on 90 days as the maximum time, with no adverse public safety effects and significant cost savings. Although this measure is a positive one, we strongly recommend that the Committee cap the prison/jail time at 90 days rather than six months.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 45 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801
T: 808.522-5900
F: 808.522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org



Dedicated to safe, responsible, humane and effective drug policies since 1993

February 14, 2012

To: Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta

RE: HB 2514 HD1 Relating to Public Safety
Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 2:05 p.m., Room 325

Position: Strong Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in strong support of HB 2514 HD1 Relating to Public Safety which proposes recommendations made out of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative.

DPFH supports the efforts to make the criminal justice system more efficient and more effective. These changes are necessary because of the ever increasing prison budget. States that have embraced the suggestions of the Initiative have made significant savings, without sacrificing public safety. Strategic and smart changes can reduce costs, allowing for the reallocation of resources to where they will do the most good.

We urge the committee to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.